71. Opening of a canal from Changanchery to Alleppey.

Mr. Ouseph Oommen (Member, Changanachery taluk) stated that his representation had already formed the subject of the representation of another Member, Mr. Chandi Thomas. He therefore requested that Mr. Thomas might be allowed to speak for him also, and retired after handing over his written representation.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS.

72. Needs of the Ambalapuzha taluk.

Mr. Chandi Thomas (Member, Ambalapuzha taluk) said that the most urgent need of the taluk was the opening of the Alleppey-Changanachery canal. The urgency of the work would be evident from the representations made in the Assembly and the memorials submitted to the Government. The work was not only one of local importance, but of general utility to the people of Kuttanad. He said that Government were deriving a large revenue from Kuttanad and prayed that at least a small portion of that revenue might be devoted to the benefit of the people of Kuttanad. Government had recognised the urgency of the work and had opened a canal from Alleppey to Kainakari. It was not clear why the work should have been left at that stage. There was at present no direct route between Alleppey and Changanchery and the people suffered great hardship on account of the absence of the above canal. The construction of the canal would greatly facilitate trade, agriculture and communication. The work was not so costly as might appear at first sight. There were many natural waterways which could be connected. The proposed waterway had to be extended from Kainakari to Kavalam, the distance being only 3 miles. He prayed that at least one mile might be taken up each year and the work completed in three years. The lands to be acquired for the work were mostly Kandukrishi lands, and the private lands to be acquired would cost only about Rs. 5,000. He said that after the alignment was fixed the people would be prepared to do the sinking of the canal. In consideration of the manifold advantages of the work, he prayed that it might be taken up and finished early.

The Member next referred to the Ambalapuzha-Tiruvalla road. Government had promised at the Eighteenth Session of the Assembly that the road from Tiruvalla to Edattuva would be taken up ; but nothing had been done in the matter so far. He prayed that the work might be taken in hand and completed without delay.

Lastly, he expressed satisfaction at the proposal of the Government to open a dispensary at Alleppey of the type he had in mind and prayed that it might be located at the eastern end of the town, so that it might be of use to the people of Kuttanad also.

President's reply.—The question of the location of the proposed dispensary at the eastern end of the Alleppey town near Chungam is under correspondence. Your representation in the matter is noted. You referred to the road from Edattuva to Talavadi. There is a road already ; and it is maintained by the P. W. D. You want that it should be improved. The matter will be looked into. In regard to the Alleppey-Changanachery canal, you say that what is wanted is only the opening of short connections between the existing waterways, *i. e.*, the Kainakari and the Kavalam rivers, so as to render the route useful for agriculture and navigation. The necessary investigation will be made and an estimate prepared. The petition received by the Chief Engineer also says that the people are willing to do the work provided that the Government give the tools free. That point is also noted.

73. Some needs of the Minachil taluk.

Mr. Ulahannan Ulahannan (Member, Minachil taluk) stated that the subjects to be discusssed by him were not new, as all of them had come up for representation at previous sessions of the Assembly. For instance, a bridge across the Minachil river had been prayed for about 12 years ago. Last year a small sum was sanctioned for it ; but no work had been commenced so far.

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